



Health Promotion Toolbox

http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/HP_Toolbox.htm

September – Dental Health **Know Your Numbers!**

In the US, **30,000** people are diagnosed with mouth and throat cancer each year, and 8,000 die of these cancers.

- Mouth and throat cancers are the sixth most common cancers in U.S. males and the fourth most common in African American men.
- Half of those diagnosed with oral cancer will survive 5 years.
- Oral cancers are the 10th most common cancers found among U.S. men and the 14th most common among U.S. women.
- Oral cancer is the 7th leading cause of cancer death in African American men.
- More African Americans die from oral cancer than whites.
- More Americans die from oral cancers than from cervical cancer or melanoma (skin cancer).
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By age 17, **78%** of young people have had a cavity, and 7 percent have lost at least one permanent tooth.

Among adults aged 35 to 44 years, **69%** have lost at least one permanent tooth.

Among adults aged 65 to 74, **26%** have lost all their natural teeth.

Untreated tooth decay remains a problem. About **one-third** of persons across all age groups have untreated decay.

Among adults aged 35 to 44, **48%** have gingivitis, and **22%** have destructive gum disease. Tobacco use increases the risk of gum disease.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (2004). **Health, United States: 2004, table 79**. Hyattsville MD.